

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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E.O. 11652' N/A

TAGS: EAIR, US, MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIR COMMUNICATIONS CHARGES

1. WE UNDERSTAND PRESIDENT OF MEXICO HAS ESTABLISHED STUDY COMMISSION TO REVIEW CHARGES OF RAMSA (RADIO AERONAUTICA MEXICANA, S.A.) AND SET NEW ONES. REPORTEDLY, ONE RECENT PROPOSAL WAS TO INCREASE CHARGES BY 210 PERCENT IN FOUR STEPS ENDING IN JANUARY 1978.

2. U.S. CARRIERS ARE NATURALLY CONCERNED. THEY ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT MEXICANS ARE CHARGING INTERNATIONAL CARRIERS DISPROPORTIONATELY HIGH FEES, AND MAY BE CROSS-SUBSIDIZING MILITARY AND GENERAL AVIATION ON OPERATIONS IN SMALL PROVINCIAL AIRPORTS.

3. THIS LATTER POSSIBILITY ALSO CONCERNS DEPT. IF U.S. CARRIERS WERE ASKED TO PAY MORE THAN THE COSTS FAIRLY ALLOCABLE TO THEIR OPERATIONS, THE CHARGES WOULD BE EXCESSIVE, AND COMPENSATORY CHARGES WOULD BE CALLED FOR UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR

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COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT OF 1974. (ON OTHER HAND, USG

WOULD NOT OBJECT IF GOM WISHED SUBSIDIZE PROVINCIAL
AIRPORTS OR MILITARY AND GENERAL AVIATION AT ITS OWN
EXPENSE.)

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INVESTIGATE PRESENT
STATUS OF COMMISSION'S DELIBERATIONS, WHICH REPORTEDLY
BEGAN MARCH 29, AND IF POSSIBLE ENSURE, IN LOW KEY,
THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE AWARE OF U.S. POSITION WITH
RESPECT EXCESSIVE CHARGES. (SAME ARGUMENT WOULD APPLY
TO DISCRIMINATORY CHARGES, BUT WE HAVE NO INDICATION
THESE NOW IMPOSED OR CONTEMPLATED.) ROBINSON

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